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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Steven A. Root, et al.) Art Unit: Unknown
)
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned) Examiner: Unknown
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Filed: Herewith)
)
For: INTERACTIVE ADVISORY SYSTEM) Atty. Dkt. No. 8379.006

Mail Stop - Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**List of Sections Forming Part of This
Information Disclosure Statement**

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. [X] Preliminary Statements
2. [X] Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449)
3. [X] Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4. [X] Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted

- 5. ☐ Cumulative Patents or Publications
- 6. ☒ Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement
- 7. ☐ Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items
 - 7A. ☐ EPO Search Report
 - 7B. ☐ English Language Version
- 8. ☐ Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents
- 9. ☐ Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (Optional)
- 10. ☒ Identification of Person(s) Making this Information Disclosure Statement

Section 1. Preliminary Statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Section 2. Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449)

- ☒ A completed Form PTO/SB/08A and/or Form PTO/SB/08B is attached hereto.

Section 3. Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications (Information Not Listed in Form PTO-1449)

During recent years, the demand for detailed weather information has risen sharply. Personal computers and communication devices have increased the demand for more information because of their power to gather, manipulate, transmit and receive data. As a result, specialized information and value-added services are in great demand. End users no longer desire to gather, manipulate and evaluate raw data. Nowhere is this condition more apparent than with weather services across North America.

Years ago, radio and television broadcasters recognized an increasing demand for weather information from their audience, and thus increased the number of on-air weather segments as a means for increasing market ranking. Today, the demand for specific content in weather information has exceeded the ability of broadcasters to meet this demand. Virtually every facet of business and personal activities are continually influenced by the weather, good or bad.

In the United States as in most countries, a governmental agency (the National Weather Service in the United States), has the primary responsibility of generating weather products for the general public. These products, such as advisories, statements, and forecasts are generated and made available to third parties, such as broadcasters, newspapers, internet web sites, paging companies and others who, in turn, distribute them to the public. However, this chain of data custody is one way.

Today's lifestyles are fast-paced and sophisticated. Requests for detailed weather information for specific applications outnumber the governments' ability to process them. However, adhering to their mandated responsibility, the National Weather Service generates the general products for public consumption twice daily. This condition forces the public to interpret general and outdated advisories to meet their needs. Often, this interpretation is made erroneously. Even worse, these products are usually regional or national in scope, and may not apply to a particular location where various local activities are underway.

By way of example, weather warnings are broadcast by radio stations across the United States. These warnings identify certain weather impacts within a specified area. In most cases, the warning area includes one or more counties, covering dozens to hundreds of square miles. Most often, these threats (such as severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, etc.), only impact a very small zone within the warning area. These threats also move rapidly. As impacts approach specific zones, they are in fact, moving away from other

zones, inside the total warning area. Essentially, the existing reporting system is insufficient to specifically identify and adequately warn of personal risk. Furthermore, if the threat is imminent, the existing system cannot and does not provide preventive measures for each user near or at the threat. Thus, by default, distant or unaffected users are placed "on alert" unnecessarily when the threat may be moving away from their location.

Another common example further clarifies the problem. A family, excited to attend the championship softball game this upcoming weekend, closely monitors the local weather forecast. All week-long the forecast has advised fair to partly cloudy weather for game day. Early on game day, the forecast changes to partly cloudy, with a thirty percent chance for late afternoon showers. The family decides to attend the game, believing that the chances for rain are below their perceived risk level. Unknown to the family at midday, some clusters of showers are intensifying, and will place dangerous lightning over the game field. While the morning weather report was not completely inaccurate, the participants and spectators are exposed to risk. If later asked, it is likely the family members did not hear or remember the weather forecast. They also failed to link their limited knowledge of the weather to their own needs and risk exposure. They did not monitor changing weather events. Most likely, they had no ability to monitor developing risk at the game. Clearly, these people were forced to interpret outdated, limited information, as applied to their specific application.

Therefore, a need exists for a system to automatically and continuously provide consumer customized weather reports, advisories, alerts, forecasts and warnings relevant to a consumer-defined level of need or dynamic spatial location. It is to such a system that the present invention is directed.

Section 4. Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted

This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. 10/322,187, filed on December 16, 2002.

(complete the following, if applicable)

- [] This application also relies, under 35 U.S.C. 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. _____, filed on _____ (date).

The references were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application(s) and therefore, are not required to be provided in this application.

Section 5. Cumulative Patents or Publications

STATEMENT

_____ is cumulative of the following patents or publications listed on Form PTO-1449:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c), a copy of only _____ is being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement.

Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement

Legible copies of all items listed in Form PTO-1449 (Modified) accompany this information disclosure statement.

☒ Exception(s) to above:

☒ Items in prior application from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.

☐ Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

Section 7. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items

Section 7A. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items - EPO Search Report

The relevance with respect to the following citations listed on Form PTO-1449:

is submitted on the basis of accompanying:

(check the appropriate item)

- ☐ EPO search report that is in the English language,
- ☐ EPO search report that is not in the English language and that is accompanied also by an English language version of the EPO search report,

that issued on the corresponding European patent application.

Section 7B. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items - English Language Version of EPO Search Report

Section 8. Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents

- ☐ Submitted herewith is an English translation of the following foreign language patents, publications or information or of those portions of those patents, publications or information considered to be material:

(complete the following, if applicable)

- ☐ No English language translations of the foreign language patents, publications or information or parts thereof are readily available, except for those listed above.
- ☐ The following foreign language documents submitted are believed to be the equivalent or substantial equivalent of the English language documents identified below, which are also submitted herewith.

Section 9. Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (OPTIONAL)

Section 10. Identification of Person(s) Making this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The person making this statement is the agent/attorney who signs below on the basis of the information:

- ☐ supplied by the inventor(s)
- ☐ supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)).
- ☒ in the agent/attorney's file

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
		Filing Date	Herewith
		First Named Inventor	Steven A. Root, et al.
		Group Art Unit	Unknown
		Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number	8379.006

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	5,398,021		Moore		03/1995
	AB	5,481,254		Gaskill, et al.		01/1996
	AC	5,555,446		Jasinski		09/1996
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	AQ	6,501,392		Gremmert et al.	04/04/2002	
	AR	6,505,123		Root, et al.	01/07/2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA		9741654		PCT	11/06/1997		
	BB		0004734		PCT	01/27/2000		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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